4:Huntingford E-S (1938-1939) 1951 FLA Dorobo FLA

7. Names

A Dorobo man has normally at least four names: (1) spirit-name, (2) porridge-name, (3) nickname, (4) patronymic, though he does not use them all.

(1) *Spirit-name.* The choice of a spirit-name, *kaisat ap ememitik* (or, *aik*), may be determined in one of three ways: (a) a pregnant woman may dream that an ancestor of her husband's visits her and tells her to call the child after him; (b) after the child is born, the father calls in his brothers and his wife, and one or two other near relatives on the paternal side, and they recite a number of names borne by their ancestors, pausing after each name: when the child moves, the name last spoken is given to it, this being one of the ways in which the ancestors indicate their will in the matter of names; a little snuff is blown up the child's nostrils to make sure that it does sneeze; (c) by taking the name of a relative in the next generation but one, as in the case of Arap Mising's family, whose spirit-names were chosen in this manner:

	Porridge-name	Spirit-name
Father's father:	Kipun	
Father:	Kimising	
Himself:	Kimnyo	Kipun
His son:	Tiongol	Kimising
His son's son:	not yet (will be) born	Kimnyo Tiongol

The second and third methods seem to be the commonest, and their use depends on family custom; the first method was described to me, but I believe is seldom used. The spirit-name once given is never spoken, and is known only to the bearer and those who were present when it was given; its purpose is to link the bearer with a specific ancestor, and to ensure remembrance of his name.

(2) Porridge-name. This term is borrowed from the Nandi, who call it porridge-name because it is given at the time when a child is first fed with porridge or gruel (*kaisat am mumwek*). There are two methods of choosing this name. The father's parents, if alive, and other elderly paternal relatives, meet in the father's hut; they drink beer, which is not shared by the child's father and mother. The father's mother, or some female relative on the paternal side, then holds the child in her arms and says, *Kibwris Sionen*, "we call you Such and such a name", announcing a name which the relatives have chosen from either (*a*) some circumstance connected with the child's birth, like the time of day when it was born, or some recent action of its father's; or (*b*) the name of an ancestor of the next generation but one, as in the case of spirit-names; this second choice is made when spirit-names are not based on the alternate generation system.

(3) Nickname. This is not an essential name, for all do not have a nickname. When given, it is generally derived from some physical peculiarity or habitual action of the person concerned, like Kipkatam, "left-handed", Kimnerkat, "fat neck", Parngetony, "headkiller".